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TO: Lisa Cunningham, EPA

from: Fred Pollock to, [unclear]

DATE: 6/25/90

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PAGES: 1 OF 6 (INCLUDES COVER PAGE)

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REPORT  
TO THE  
EVERGREEN ACRES CITIZEN GROUP  
CONCERNING  
MEETING HELD 13 JUNE 1990  
OF THE SUBJECT OF THE  
VALLEY FORGE GENERAL HOSPITAL CONTAMINATION SITE

DISTRIBUTION: Evergreen Acres Citizen Group  
Dr. John Maher, Chester County Health Dept.  
Dr. Harold Russell, Chester County Health Dept.  
David A. Jackson, Chester County Health Dept.  
Walter P. Leuchak, Chester County Health Dept.  
Dr. Carolyn Trohoski, Superintendent, PASD  
Paul Panek, PA Dept. of Environmental Resources  
Richard C. Wilson, US Army Corps of Engineers  
Sandra Zebrowski, US Army Corps of Engineers  
Craig Graves, Valley Forge Christian College  
[REDACTED], EUS Corporation  
Lisa Cunningham, Environmental Protection Agency  
Hon. Peter Vroom, Pa. State Representative

Lisa Scheid, The Evening Phoenix  
Debra Hoell, The Pottstown Mercury  
Bruce Howday, Daily Local News  
Daniel Kaufman, The Philadelphia Inquirer

Irene Kwald, Supervisor-Charlestown Township  
Board of Supervisors, Schuylkill Township

14 June 1990

TO: Evergreen Acres Citizen Group

FROM: T. J. Ryan, Supervisor-Schuylkill Township

SUBJECT: Meeting Report

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A meeting was held 13 June 1990 at the Chester County Health Department, West Chester, PA., on the subject of the toxic contamination at the former Valley Forge General Hospital site. ~~Procced at the meeting were:~~

Corps of Engineers... Richard Wilson, Rapid Response Team Leader  
(Omaha District) James J. O'Neill, Environmental Engineer  
Sandra Zabrowski, Project Manager

IT Corporation ..... Not Responsive Due to Revised Scope  
(Hazardous Waste Specialists)

C. C. Health Dept... Dr. John Maher, Director  
West Chester Walter Leuchak, Environmental Engineer  
David Jackson, Environmental Director  
Dr. Harold Russell, Epidemiologist

PA DER ..... Paul V. Panek, Waste Management Specialist  
Horriestown Gary Bonner, Environmental Engineer

Phxvl School District . Dr. Carolyn Trohoski, Superintendent  
Robert Klotzbach, Industrial Consultant  
George V. Quay

VF Christian Coll. Craig Graves  
and attorney for VFCC

Charlestown Twp.... Mrs. Irene Ewald, Supervisor

Schuylkill Twp. ... Theodore J. Ryan, Supervisor

The meeting convened at 1:30PM and was co-chaired by Dr. Maher of the CCHD and by Richard Wilson of the Army Corps of Engineers.

Mr. Wilson identified his group as the Rapid Response Team of the Environmental Branch of the US Army Corps of Engineers, Omaha District, 215 N. 17th Street, Omaha, NE 68102-4978. Telephone number (402)221-4818; FAX (402) 221-3030

Not Responsive Due to Revised Scope stated that the IT Corporation is a subcontractor to the Corps of Engineers and is a specialty firm dealing in hazardous waste.

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Mr. Wilson then announced the meeting agenda. At this point, Mr. Ryan (Schuylkill Township) handed out copies of the 12 June memo, prepared by the Evergreen Acres Citizen Group, to all present. After the memo was read, Mr. Wilson affirmed the intention of the Corps of Engineers to provide a public forum for all interested parties at the appropriate time. A news release will be issued the week of 17 June 1990 that will list the actions contemplated.

Mr. Wilson listed five actions, as regards the landfill area investigation, that have been determined necessary as a result of site surveys completed to date. These five action items are:

1. Geophysical survey. To determine the extent of the landfill. This action to begin promptly.
2. Install three to five testing and sampling wells. Ground water from these monitoring wells will be removed and tested. This action will be completed by 30 September 1990. (Drawings of these wells will be made public.)
3. Soil samples will be taken from the landfill area.
4. Samples will be taken from the incinerator stack.
5. A risk analysis will be prepared based on the testing results.

The 5-person drilling crew will consist of a geologist, a field supervisor, and three technicians. Drilling will commence about 1 August 1990. Analysis of the well tests will be performed at the Corps of Engineers lab in Omaha.

In addition to groundwater testing, the Corps wishes to identify all local residents having domestic wells. Public notice of these inquiries will be made at the appropriate time.

The Corps intends to investigate aerial dispersion of stack effluent. No details on this yet.

Concurrently with the listed action items, the Corps will conduct intensive record searches of the VFCH land area to determine prior owners and land uses.

A public meeting will be held at a date to be announced in the Phoenixville Area High School auditorium. This meeting will be attended by representatives of all agencies involved. A tentative date for the meeting is the 3rd or 4th week of July 1990.

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Ms. Zebrowski, Program Manager for the Corps of Engineers, explained the funding plan for the VFCH task. She stated there are about 5,000 to 6,000 sites nationally that have been identified as potential hazardous waste sites. VFCH is identified as a "FUDS" site (Formerly Used Defense Site).

The Corps of Engineers is "allocated" about \$50 million dollars per fiscal year for investigation and clean-up of these FUDs. The funding necessary for the VFCH program has been requested from Washington and is expected to be provided out of the current fiscal year budget. (The fiscal year runs from 1 October to 30 September).

Mr. Wilson proceeded to define what actions have been taken since their arrival at the site on 11 June 1990. Specifically, five drums containing about 250 pounds of pesticides and insecticides, including chlordane, diazinon, and cyanide were packed in DOT-approved containers for shipment to: GSX, Chemical Services, 2815 Old Greenbriar Road, Greenbriar, TN, 37073. The materials were removed from Bldg. 49 on the property of the VF Christian College.

Other materials were also found which will be analyzed for hazardous properties. These materials include: floor stripper, a granular powder (scap?), Wet-Drop (a wetting agent?), Dyrene (a fungicide similar to 2,4,D), firefighting foam, roofing tar, and three pounds of lime sulfate.

Mrs. Ewald, Supervisor - Charlestown Twp., requested testing of soccer field surfaces for possible hazards as one of the first test areas. The Corps agreed to comply. She also mentioned that the VFCH site had been land owned by the Stonorov family and was donated to the Army in the early 1940s. She noted also that the general area had been the location of lead and silver mines dating back to the mid-19th century period and was so used until about 60 years ago. Mrs. Ewald suggested several contacts that might be useful in determining ownership and land uses.

Chester County Health Department - Dr. John Maher, Director, reviewed actions taken by the department to date. A preliminary questionnaire was sent to all known Hodgkins patients. Based on the response, a detailed follow-up questionnaire will be sent. The return response has not been as expected given the anxiety level evident at earlier public meetings. Dr. Maher, and Dr. Harold Russell, the epidemiologist, emphasized the need for cooperation of the Hodgkins patients and their physicians, to comply with requests for information. The receipt of medical records is necessary to carry the investigation forward.

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Concluding remarks from Mr. Wilson (CofE), reaffirmed the intent of the Corps to move forward with the investigation, the studies, and the cleanup, in a timely manner. He stressed the importance of proceeding in an approved, orderly, and scientific manner without unnecessary intervention of local government officials, ad hoc groups, news media, etc. that could result in delays in the work.

My personal opinion is that the proper agencies are actively involved, they are funded, they know what they are doing, and they are here. Let's let them get on with the job. We, of course, intend to monitor the program from beginning to end. Periodic public meetings and news releases should enable us to stay abreast of each stage of the work.

My last remark to the assembled group was that the residents of the area and the township have acted responsibly, forcefully, and courteously from the start and will continue to do so. Mr. Wilson acknowledged that he understands the stated concern of the Evergreen Acres Citizens Group and will cooperate in every way.

The meeting adjourned at 3:40PM.

Respectfully submitted,



Theodore J. Ryan

Supervisor

Schuylkill Township